



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

February 14, 2013

Senator Thomas Casperson, Chair
Senate Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes
125 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Senator Casperson,

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes SB 78. The League supports promoting an environment beneficial to Michiganders through the protection and wise management of natural resources. This includes the preservation of the biological integrity of the ecosystem.

Monocultures have demonstrated their vulnerabilities. Biological diversity supports a healthy environment. The State has an obligation to protect our investment using scientifically based management tools. Land ownership implies responsibilities of stewardship. The management, protection and restoration of Michigan's land resources rest with government.

The Department of Natural Resources should not be restricted from classifying or managing the biodiversity of State land. The League of Women Voters supports a diverse, healthy ecosystem. The proposed changes to PART 355, Biological Diversity Conservation and PART 525, Sustainable Forestry on State Forestlands would undermine good management plans currently existing.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this decision-making process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Susan Smith'.

Susan Smith, President
League of Women Voters of Michigan